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Revision of the genus *Thyrecephalus* and description of *Afrus* gen. nov. of Africa south of the Sahara (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Staphylininae)

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Abstract

A revision of the genus *Thyreocephalus* Guérin-Méneville, 1844 of Africa south of the Sahara is presented. A new genus *Afrus* **gen. nov.** was described with the type species *Thyreocephalus spegazzinii* Bernhauer, 1915, which resulted in following new combination: *Afrus spegazzinii* (Bernhauer, 1915), **comb. nov.** *Eulissus collarti* (Cameron, 1932) was transferred to *Afrus*. Based on a revision of types and of additional material, 32 species of the genus *Thyreocephalus* and two species of the genus *Afrus* are recognized in Africa south of the Sahara. All species are described or redescribed and illustrated, seven of them for the first time: *Thyreocephalus camerunensis* **sp. nov.**, *T. manfredi* **sp. nov.**, *T. marginipennis* **sp. nov.**, *T. meridiaofricanus* **sp. nov.**, *T. pseudoafricanus* **sp. nov.**, *T. subcorticalis* **sp. nov.** and *T. tsingidianus* **sp. nov.** Neotypes are designated for *Eulissus ater* Laporte, 1835, *Xantholinus coeruleipennis* Quedenfeldt, 1881, and *X. interocularis* Eppelsheim, 1895. Lectotypes are designated for *Eulissus atlanticus* Bernhauer, 1915, *E. burgeoni* Bernhauer, 1929, *E. mokaensis* Bernhauer, 1915, *E. secretus* Bernhauer, 1935, *E. turneri* Bernhauer, 1937, *Xantholinus alluaudi* Fauvel, 1907, *X. mocquerysi* Fauvel, 1903, *X. pilosus* Roth, 1851, *Thyreocephalus diversiceps* Bernhauer, 1936, and *T. spegazzinii* Bernhauer, 1915. *Eulissus africanus* Bernhauer, 1913, *E. alluaudi* (Fauvel, 1907) (originally described in *Xantholinus* Dejean, 1821), *E. atlanticus* Bernhauer, 1915, *E. brunneiventris* Tottenham, 1956, *E. burgeoni* Bernhauer, 1929, *E. guineensis* Bernhauer, 1912, *E. mokaensis* Bernhauer, 1915, *E. secretus* Bernhauer, 1935, *E. strinatii* Scheerpeltz, 1958, and *Xantholinus nairobiensis* Fauvel, 1907 were transferred to *Thyreocephalus*. Following synonymies are proposed: *Thyreocephalus nairobiensis* (Fauvel, 1907) = *Eulissus turneri* Bernhauer, 1937, **syn. nov.**, *Thyreocephalus interocularis* (Eppelsheim, 1895) = *Thyreocephalus diversiceps* Bernhauer, 1936, **syn. nov.**, *Thyreocephalus mokaensis* (Bernhauer, 1915) = *Eulissus flaviventris* Bernhauer, 1939, **syn. nov.** = *Thyreocephalus semirufus* Coiffait, 1968, **syn. nov.**, *Thyreocephalus mocquerysi* (Fauvel, 1903) = *Eulissus milliaui* Bernhauer, 1932, **syn. nov.** The distribution of both genera in Africa south of Sahara is mapped and a key to species is presented.

Key words: taxonomy, new genus, new species, new records, key, revision, Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Staphylininae, Xantholinini, *Afrus*, *Thyreocephalus*, Afrotropical region

Introduction

The family Staphylinidae is the largest family of the order Coleoptera with more than 58 300 species and nearly 3 500 genera grouped into 33 subfamilies (Grebennikov & Newton 2009, Solodovnikov *et al.* 2013). The tribe Xantholinini is represented by many genera and a large number of species in all zoogeographical regions. No revision on the generic level using modern taxonomic procedures exists for Africa south of the Sahara. A global-level study investigating the monophyly and validity of several genera of Xantholinini lacking two dorsal lines of pronotal punctures (*e.g.*, *Achmonia* Bordonì, 2004, *Agerodes* Motschulsky, 1858, *Eulissus* Mannerheim, 1830, and *Thyreocephalus* Guérin-Méneville, 1844) of the world is needed. The first revision of a Xantholinini genus having these characters (*Achmonia* Bordonì, 2004) from Africa south of Sahara was published only recently (Janák & Bordonì, 2014).

Xantholinini lacking dorsal pronotal rows of punctures from Africa south of the Sahara (assigned in the past to the genera *Eulissus* Mannerheim, 1830 and *Thyreocephalus* Guérin-Méneville, 1844) can be separated into two different groups of genera, characterized by the following characters:

Group 1: superior line of pronotal hypomeron turning downwards well before middle, joining or almost joining inferior line next to front margin of procoxae and continuing onto anterior margin of pronotum (*Thyreocephalus* Guérin-Méneville, 1844 and *Afrus* **gen. nov.** described below).

Group 2: superior line of pronotal hypomeron not turning downwards until close to anterior angle and distinctly separated from inferior line (*Achmonia* Bordonì).

The monophyly, sister group (s) and intrageneric phylogeny of *Thyreocephalus* have never been investigated. The description of *Afrus* **gen. nov.** and the present revision of *Thyreocephalus* of Africa south of the Sahara is a fundamental step toward addressing these questions. The present paper is also important for the continued study of *Thyreocephalus* species from other regions, including the Oriental and Australian regions.

The genus *Thyreocephalus* was described in 1844 by Guérin-Méneville for a species from Colombia (*jekelii*), fixed as type species by subsequent designation by Lucas (1920). Subsequently other authors described other genera, which have been eventually synonymised with *Thyreocephalus* (*Linidius* Sharp, 1876, *Saurohypnus* Sharp, 1885, *Indoscitalinus* Heller, 1900) (Smetana 1977, Steel 1938). Also *Dinoxantholinus* Heller, 1910 is cited in the previous catalogues as synonym of *Thyreocephalus* (*e.g.*, Herman 2001) but recent study established that it is a valid genus, most likely endemic to New Guinea (Bordonì 2010).